

# **OXON HILL RESIDENTS**



CAMPAIGN TO REINVEST IN  
THE HEART OF OXON HILL

December 11, 2001

Dr. Andrew Sawyers  
Environmental Justice and Community Development Coordinator  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
2500 Broening Highway  
Baltimore, MD 21224

Dear Dr. Sawyers,

STEERING COMMITTEE

BONNIE BICK

JEAN BURGESS

DONNA F. EDWARDS

MARILYN NULL

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GENEVA WHITE

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We, the Campaign to Reinvest in the Heart of Oxon Hill, request that you review the National Harbor proposal in Oxon Hill. The proposal to build ten theme hotels and a deep-water port on the Potomac River adjacent to our existing residential community would have unacceptable impacts on our quality of life, and would use Oxon Hill as a sacrifice zone -- a designated place to locate undesirable sort of development that more prosperous communities would not be forced to use.

*The Region Divided*, the economic study of the Washington Metropolitan Area by the Brookings Institute, points out that although the Washington Metropolitan area is generally a prosperous one, there are pockets of disinvestment. Further, it points out that race is a predictor of the location of these pockets, and that the region has the tools to effect positive change in this situation -- but that the wrong policies would widen the gaps, making the entire region a less desirable place to live and work. In the beginning of the twenty-first century and in our Nation's Capital we should be striving to create a region united by economic prosperity.

National Harbor is the largest commercial development proposal ever in the State of Maryland. It is proposed for a predominately African American community. It envisions the creation of an employment pattern that would long into the future encourage the youth of our community to set their sights low. Our community urgently needs economic development and job creation -- but of a kind, consistent with the Smart Growth principle, that will allow our community to prosper -- and to be served by transportation -- just as well as other communities around the Beltway. The Campaign to Reinvest in the Heart of Oxon Hill requests a meeting so that we can present our concerns to you for review. Please contact us to set up a time for a meeting.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Bick  
Steering Committee  
The Campaign to Reinvest in the Heart of Oxon Hill